

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 07613 211128Z

41 S
ACTION SS-25

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O 211050Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T JIDDA 7613
EXDIS
S/NOFORN/NO CONTRACT/WNINTEL

SECDEF FOR DIA AND ISA/SA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MILI, SA, US
SUBJ: ALLEGED CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR LOCKHEED AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
PERSONNEL TO ASSIST SAUDI ARABIA IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES
WITH ISRAEL

REF: (A) STATE 281912, (B) STATE 272797, (C) ECJ2-S 19944

SUMMARY: UPON RECEIPT OF REF B, EMBASSY CALLED IN LOCKHEED'S
MANAGER FOR OPERATIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA, DORM VEIRS ON NOVEMBER
10. VEIRS EXPRESSED DISBELIEF AND SURPRISE AT THE ALLEGATION
THAT A LOCKHEED CORPORATE EXECUTIVE HAD GIVEN EITHER ASSUR-
ANCES TO SAUDI OFFICIALS OR INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS EMPLOYEES THAT
LOCKHEED PERSONNEL WOULD PERFORM AIRCRAFT CONTROL FUNCTIONS
AGAINST HOSTILE ISRAELI AIRCRAFT. AFTER FURTHER CHECKS WITH LOCKHEED
PERSONNEL HE SAID THERE IS NO RPT NO SUCH POLICY OR INSTRUCTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A MEETING NOVEMBER 10 IN JIDDA WITH CHARGE AND
POL/MIL OFFICER, DORM VEIRS, VICE PRESIDENT AND MANAGING
DIRECTOR FOR LOCKHEED IN SAUDI ARABIA WAS GIVEN, IN PARA-
PHRASE FORM, SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL AND ASKED FOR ANY COMMENTS.

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HE SAID "WE HAVE NO SUCH INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEES. IN FACT,

WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO GET OPERATING PROCEDURES DEFINING RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DIFFERENT CONDITIONS FROM THE AIR FORCE (ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE) WHICH ADDRESSES THIS VERY PROBLEM."

2. VEIRS WAS TOLD THAT THIS SITUATION WAS OF POTENTIAL ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT TO US-SAUDI RELATIONS. VEIRS SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZES THIS. IT WAS MENTIONED TO VEIRS THAT IN 1973 LOCKHEED (AND OTHER US MILITARY CONTRACTORS) HAD BEEN TOLD TO KEEP THEIR PEOPLE OUT OF THE FIGHTING. VEIRS (WHO WAS HERE IN 1973) RECALLED THE GUIDANCE AND AGREED WITH IT.

3. IN ORDER TO CLEAR UP ANY AMBIGUITY, VEIRS SAID THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO A LOCKHEED/NSAF TASK FORCE PREPARED IN DRAFT FORM DETAILED OPERATING PROCEDURES WHICH DEFINE SUCH THINGS AS WHO WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO PLACE AIRCRAFT ON ALERT, TO SCRAMBLE JET FIGHTERS, ETC. IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES. HE SAID THAT THE NSAF/MODA HAD NOT RPT NOT YET TAKEN ACTION ON THIS DOCUMENT. FYI: THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 100 LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES AT TABUK OPERATING AND MAINTAINING AIR TRAFFIC RADARS AND CONTROL CENTERS AND TRAINING THE SAUDI MILITARY IN THEIR USE. VEIRS SAID THAT ONLY SIX OR EIGHT OF THE 100 LOCKHEED PERSONNEL ARE U.S. CITIZENS; THE BALANCE ARE BRITISH NATIONALS.

4. VEIRS SAID THAT HE WOULD BE "VERY SURPRISED" IF MR THUM, PRESIDENT OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT SERVICES WHO HAS MADE SEVERAL VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA, INCLUDING TABUK, MADE SUCH STATEMENTS AS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN REFTTEL. "THEY CERTAINLY DO NOT REPRESENT ANY POLICY INTENT ON THE PART OF LOCKHEED," VEIRS SAID.

5. AFTER TALKING TO LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES HERE WHO ACCOMPANIED MR THUM ON HIS VISIT TO TABUK, VEIRS CONTACTED EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER NOVEMBER 16 AND SAID THAT MR THUM DID NOT MAKE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN REF B.

6. COMMENT: WE STRONGLY URGE THAT IN THE FUTURE THE ORIGINATOR OF ANY REPORT TOUCHING ON THE OPERATION OF USG PROGRAMS OR THOSE OF US FIRMS OPERATING IN SAUDIA ARABIA GIVE
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DAO OR EMBASSY JIDDA THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY, REFINE, AND/OR COMMENT PRIOR TO DISSEMINATION. IN THIS AND IN ANOTHER RECENT INSTANCE WE HAVE HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER IN QUESTION AND WE ARE IN ANY CASE IN A POSITION TO CHECK WITH USMTM AND U.S. DEFENSE CONTRACTORS ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. AFTER AMBASSADOR PORTER'S RETURN WE WILL DECIDE WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS ARE TO BE TAKEN.

HORAN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. MACFARLANE, S/S-O.

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NNN

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